Experts Deputed Abroad to Take Foreign Assignment

4920. SHRI MOHD. AZAM KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that a number of experts are being deputed abroad to take foreign assignments under Indian Technical and Economic Co-operation (ITEC) and Bilateral Assignments to developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America;

(b) if so, the number of such experts deputed during the last five years;

(c) number of persons belonging to the SC/ST among them and their percentage as compared to the total number; and

(d) if adequate number of persons belonging to the SC/ST Community are not given representation in the said training course, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The number of experts deputed during the last five years is as follows:—

(i) *Under ITEC Programme*

1995	15
1996	24
1997	09
1998	16
1999	35

(ii) *Under Bilateral Assignments*

	Maldives	Bhutan	Nepal
1995	19	33	17
1996	07	32	25
1997	—	57	17
1998	—	65	13
1999	01	33	17
TOTAL:	29	220	89

(a) and (d) Under the ITEC Programme, when a requisition is received from a foreign government for nomination of an expert, the database is accessed for drawing the names of experts meeting the requirements, if available, and if not, the vacancy is circulated inviting applications/ nominations of eligible experts. Experts meeting the requirements are considered for nominations. The database on experts maintained is based on the experience profile of the experts only. Therefor, information on the number of persons belonging to SCs/STs among those nominated is not available.

As for Bilateral Assignments, in respect of Maldives, out of a total of 27 experts, 2 were SC/ST (7.4%). Of the 220 experts sent to Bhutan, 10 were SC/ST (4.5%). In respect of experts sent to Nepal, the SC/ST aspect is not reflected in the application forms filled in by the candidates. Hence, this information is not available.

SC/ST Ambassadors and High Commissioners

4921. SHRI VEN DHAMMA VIRIYO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether SC/ST Parliamentarians in the representations submitted to the Prime Minister on 17th December, 1996, 1st September, 1997 and 23rd July, 1998 have demanded placement of SC/ST Officers as Ambassadors/High Commissioners/Heads of Indian Diplomatic Missions abroad;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon and results achieved; and

(c) the total number of posts of Indian Ambassadors/High Commissioners/Heads of Indian Diplomatic Missions abroad and number of persons belonging to the ST/ST working against such posts as 1st January, 1996 and 1st January, 2000.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The representations were forwarded by the Prime Minister's Office to the Ministry of Social Justic and Empowerment to be followed up by them with the other Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India for implementation.